Silting of Hirakund Reservoir

4407. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hirakund Reservoir in Orissa is silting up at a very fast rate ;

(b) if so, the reasons of the silting up of the Hirakund Reservoir and

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). Silting of reservoirs is a natural phenomenon. According to the latest hydrological survey conducted during 1983—86. the reservoir is not silting up at a very fast rate.

(c) In order to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoir, soil conservation measures have been taken up in the catchment area.

Soil Erosion in Orissa

4408. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether soil erosion has posed a serious problem in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the total are as in the State of Orissa affected by different kinds of erosions ; and

(c) the steps taken to tackle with the soil erosion problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) : Estimates made by various Committees/ Commissions indicate that an area of about 7.8 m. ha. is affected by soil erosion and land degradation in the State of Orissa.

(c) The measures taken to check soil erosion consist of Vegetative, engineering and improved management practices such as bunding, terracing, improved crop production technology horticulture plantatiion, afforestation grassland development, guily control,stream bank control, check dams, water harvesting structures etc.

Jobs to Dependents of Deceased Government Servants on Compassionate ground.

4409. SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the Government of India, Deptt. of Personnel and Training letter No. 14014/6/66-Estt. (D) dated the 30th June, 1987 regarding compassionate appointment of dependents of deceased Government servants and to state :

(a) whether the Government allows relaxation in age, qualifications, test standards etc. to the dependent of deceased employees ;

(b) if so, the extent to which the above said relaxations are given; and

(c) whether calling the dependents of deceased employees directly for test/interview etc. without providing them any sort of relaxation in age test/interview standards etc. is considered as a compassionate ground case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) For appointment on compassionate grounds, relaxation is permissible in respect of age, recruitment procedure and educational qualification to the extent indicated in

Para 6 of the Department of Personnel and Training O.M. No. 14014/6/86-Estt. (D) dated 30th June, 1987. It has been decided that the lower age limit will, however, be 18 years.

(c) Subject to the above concessions, it is open to the appointing authority to subject a candidate for compassionate appointment to a test or interview if the same is provided for in the recruitment rules of the post.

Siachan Issue

4410. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made to resolve the Siachan issue with Pakistan ;

(b) whether any talks were held with Pakistan in May, 1988 ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c) : Three rounds of Official level talks have so far been held between the Governments of India and Pakistan to discuss the Siachen issue. In the third round of official level talks between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held at Islamabad from 18th to 20th May, 1988, the two sides considered certain specific proposals and agreed to examine these further to seek a peaceful solution of this issue, in accordance withthe Simla Agreement.

It was also agreed that the next round of talks would be held at New Delhi during August-September, '88, on mutually convenient dates.

Committee on Environment and Forests etc.

4411. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been set up by the Central Government on environment, forests, and wastelands development for the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if, so what are the terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir, Planning Commission has set up a Steering Group of Environment, Forests and Wastelands Development for the formulation of 8th five year plan.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are given below :

(1) To recommend a policy framework for activities in the areas of environment, ecology, forestry, wildlife and wastelands development for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95) taking into account the progress made in the implementation of the Seventh Plan programmes. Special focus will need to be placed on aspects relating to :—

(i) Research and development ;

(ii) Scientific management approaches ;

(iii) Peoples participation ;

(iv) Role of voluntary agencies ;

(v) Education/awareness ;

(vi) Protection of critical (endangered) ecosystems;

(vii) Legislative/regulatory measures (Environment Protection Act